

## BOARD OF FINANCE

April 15, 2009

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Members Present: First Selectman McCarty, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Volain, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Piccirillo, Ms. Brown, Mr. Monico

Also Present: Director of Finance J. Michael Betz  
Assistant Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members or distributed at the time.

1. Agenda – April 8, 2009
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on March 18, 2009
3. March 31, 2009 - Report of Budget
  - Report of Revenue
  - Special Funds
  - Board of Education Accounting
4. Draft Resolutions dated 4/15/09, Finalize 09-10 Budget
5. Memo dated March 25, 2009, Aging of Past Due Taxes
6. Email dated April 13, 2009, Response to Mr. Doheny's Request
7. 2008 Grand List Net Net Taxable Post-BAA, March 23, 2009
8. Pension Fund Analysis (3 pages)
9. Town Reductions dated April 15, 2009
10. Mill Rate Calculation FY 09-10
11. Letter dated April 15, 2009, Suspension of Concessions from Town Employees

### MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 18, 2009, Mr. Piccirillo moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

### OLD BUSINESS

#### REPORT OF BUDGET, SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING FEBRUARY 28, 2009

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of February were at 98.7%. Further discussion followed. The reports were accepted as presented.

### FY 2009-2010 BUDGET

Mr. Doheny began the discussion stating that there were three common themes expressed at the Public Hearing on April 7, 2009. The concern was over the elimination of the Engineer II position, the reduction in the Board of Education budget and the use of the fund balance in the FY 09/10 budget.

Mr. Doheny said that after listening to several citizens who understand the inner workings of the Town, he felt that the Engineer II position should not be eliminated. He stated that the Town has approved numerous projects that require the services of a field engineer. He further pointed out that the Director of Public Works cannot do a union job. He proposed that the Board of Finance restore the position.

Chairman Volain said that the Board of Finance does not have the authority to hire/fire people. He said that the department heads determine the staffing and that it would not be appropriate for the Board of Finance to usurp the authority of the department heads.

Mr. Monico said that the elimination of the position was never mentioned during the Public Works budget workshop.

First Selectman McCarty explained that Mr. Burns was not a licensed engineer. With the recent hiring of two licensed engineers, there was no need for the Engineer II position. The Director of Public Works said that there is a team of seven senior staff members who are capable of handling the engineering projects in Town.

First Selectman McCarty commented that she was elected to make Town government run effectively and efficiently and it was her decision to eliminate the Engineer II position.

Mr. Hallahan stated that he would not overrule the First Selectman or the department head's decision. He said it was a personnel issue not a Board of Finance issue.

Mr. Doheny then made a motion to restore the Engineer II position.

Seconded by, Mr. Monico.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - No	Hallahan - No
	Brown - No	Piccirillo - No	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - No		

At 7:25 PM, the Fire Marshall informed the Board of Finance that the occupancy level of the conference room was exceeded and that the meeting should be moved to the Library Community Room.

At 7:36 PM, Chairman Volain reconvened the meeting.

The Board then went over the budget reductions in detail. The discussion focused on the pension and board of education reductions. Two actuaries from the Segal Company answered questions from the Board about the pension funds.

Mr. Doheny asked Chairman Volain if he had discussed the \$450,000 budget reduction with the Superintendent of Schools. Chairman Volain said that he had spoken with her. She indicated that the reduction will not result in service or program cuts but it may produce a slight increase in class size. He said that the Superintendent realizes that if the budget doesn't pass there will be additional reductions. Chairman Volain pointed out that the Board of Education requested a \$2.0 million increase over last year's budget and that the \$450,000 reduction is a small sum relative to the total request.

A lengthy discussion followed between Mr. Monico and Chairman Volain about the use of the fund balance. Mr. Monico was concerned about the use of the fund balance. Chairman Volain pointed out that in lieu of using the fund balance, the Board could make additional cuts in the budget. Mr. Monico was asked for a recommendation but none was presented. Chairman Volain explained that with the \$4 million refund from CRRA, \$2 million will go into the fund balance and \$2 million will go into the budget. This will result in an actual decrease to the fund balance of \$400,000.

Mr. Monico wanted to know what the plan is for the next 2-3 years if the fund balance is used this year. He said we don't want to be hit with a large tax increase next year especially since we will be losing UpJohn's revenue. Mr. Monico did not present an alternative plan. Chairman Volain said that he would rather not increase the taxes this year because many people are out of work and cannot afford an increase in taxes.

Further discussion focused on the expected revenue. Mr. Doheny felt that our revenue estimates were a little high. He didn't agree with increasing the collection rate to 98%. He said that given the economic situation, it doesn't make sense to increase the collection rate. Mr. Monico agreed with Mr. Doheny and said that historically the budgeted rate has been 97.5%. However, Chairman Volain pointed out that historically the actual collection rate has been above 98%.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### REPORT OF BUDGET, SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING MARCH 31, 2009

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of March were at 99.3%. Further discussion followed. The reports were accepted as presented.

#### FINALIZE FY 2009-2010 BUDGET

First Selectman McCarty moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends a Town Government Budget for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$37,933,369.

Seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - No	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - No
	McCarty - Yes		

First Selectman McCarty moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends a Board of Education Budget for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$43,505,647.

Seconded by Ms. Brown.

VOTE:	Doheny - No	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - No
	McCarty - Yes		

First Selectman McCarty moved the following:

RESOLVED, That a Total Budget for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$81,439,016. (Town Government \$37,933,369. – Board of Education of \$43,505,647.) be presented to the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2009.

Seconded by Ms. Brown.

VOTE:	Doheny - No	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - No
	McCarty - Yes		

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 1 hour and 25 minutes with several residents asking questions and making recommendations/suggestions.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Volain moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		